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## **Montana State Library Report**

Brief summary prepared for Spring 2009 Meetings

By Darlene Staffeldt, State Librarian

### **State Library Commission:**

- The next meeting of the State Library Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at the State Library in Helena, MT. Agenda items include but are not limited to: Orientation of new Commissioners, MSL Display Policy, Recommendations on handling of reductions in budget, and Federation Plans of Services.
- At the April 25, 2009 Commission meeting the Commission approved the FY09 Third quarter financial report, Montana Shared Catalog new libraries, LSTA FY'09 budget, PEEL employment requirements, as well as new policies on communications and disruptive patrons. Commission information can be found at: [http://www.msl.mt.gov/About\\_MSL/commission/mtgmaterials.asp](http://www.msl.mt.gov/About_MSL/commission/mtgmaterials.asp)
- There will likely be three openings on the Commission at the end of May. The terms of Rod Moody and Don Allen will end in May 2009 and these individuals have expressed interest in taking advantage of other opportunities. Commissioner Nora Smith, whose term ends May 2010 has requested to be replaced for personal reasons. If you, or a local trustee, friend of the library, or other citizen would like to be considered to serve on the Commission please refer to the Governor's Office website regarding Boards and Councils at: <https://app.mt.gov/cgi-bin/governor/appointment.cgi>

### **Network Advisory Council:**

- The Network Advisory Council met on April 1, 2009. The Council recommended that the State Library Commission accept and provide start-up costs funding for all nine 2009 library applicants to the Montana Shared Catalog. The Council also

recommended that the Commission approve the FY 2009 LSTA Budget as proposed by the State Library. To ensure that Montana Talking Book Library patrons are adequately served in the future, the Council encouraged the Commission to send a letter to the National Library Service (NLS) urging NLS to seek a more forward-thinking digital content and equipment transition plan than the one currently in place. The Council recommended that the State Library renew the Statewide Periodical Database contracts for an additional two years and maintain the OCLC-Montana Group Services contract for the coming year. A Council task force is being appointed to study and make recommendations regarding the current OCLC contract cost-sharing formula. To deal with a small amount of remaining Statewide Periodical Database funding, the Council recommended that the State Library pursue an authentication tool like "Easy Proxy" if the price matched the available funding; otherwise the money should be used to purchase access to two additional Gale Cengage Learning resources available under the terms of our current contract with that vendor. Other topics of discussion at the meeting included the proposed Statewide Courier/Delivery Service pilot project and the Council's role in administrative rules activity associated with the passage of HB 61.

- Council information can be found at:  
[http://msl.mt.gov/About\\_MSL/network\\_advisory\\_council/network\\_tf.asp](http://msl.mt.gov/About_MSL/network_advisory_council/network_tf.asp)

**Staff news** from Montana State Library:

- Evan Hammer has joined the Montana State Library staff as the Natural Resources Information System (NRIS) Manager.
- We have accepted a letter of resignation from Ann Retzinger, State Publications Librarian. Ann plans to return to her home state of Iowa this month and we wish her all the best.

**2009 Legislature updates as of March 4, 2009.**

- The 61<sup>st</sup> Legislature adjourned sine die on Tuesday, April 28, 2009.
- The Montana State Library's budget which includes direct support to local libraries in the form of state aid to public libraries, interlibrary loan reimbursement monies, federation monies, statewide database monies, in addition to the State Library staff and operations budget passed out of the legislature with the following four changes: (1) a 7% vacancy savings request which results in approximately \$100,000 per year which we need to find via vacant positions held open, staff furloughs, reductions in force, and /or use of any Governor's contingency fund. (2) The 2% across all agencies general fund cut was reduced from the full 2% of approximately \$56,000 per year to \$13,735 per year. (3) An additional \$80,000 (this is down from the original \$200,000 which was in the budget until the last week of the session) in coal severance tax

funds each year for use in developing a pilot courier delivery services program. (4) The Talking Book Library program received one time only funds of \$323,000 stimulus monies to fund the Montana Radio Reading Services and the National Federation for the Blind Newsline services to Montana's blind and physically handicapped. Once the final figures are placed in the budget spreadsheets, we will be invited to the Governor's budget office to debrief and then the MSL Managers will be working with staff, Commissioners, and the Library Community as we make recommendations as to how to implement the shortfalls and windfalls in our next biennium budget.

- **HB 61 status** – which involves changes to the Information Access Montana Act issues and a possible repurposing of interlibrary loan reimbursement monies passed out of the House and Senate, and has been signed by the Governor. Thank you to Montana Library Association's Government Affair Chair Lois Fitzpatrick and Lobbyist Nanette Gilbertson; Ron Moody, State Library Commissioner; Honore Bray, Missoula Public Library; Judy Hart, Lewis and Clark Public Library; John Finn, Hearst Free Public Library, and Kim Crowley, Flathead County Public Library, all of whom provided testimony for one or more of our hearings on HB61. We also want to thank the Representatives and Senators for their support of HB61.
- Here is a likely scenario next steps now that HB61 has passed:
  - (1) Interlibrary loan reimbursement will be processed as it has been in the past in July 2009. Libraries will receive the forms in June and will need to file for reimbursement by mid-to late July. Checks will be mailed in August or September, as soon as reasonably possible once new fiscal year budget is open and available.
  - (2) Network Advisory Council (NAC) in a mid-summer 2009 meeting will explore options and determine its preliminary recommendations for repurposing of the Interlibrary Loan Program monies for FY 2010.
  - (3) NAC with assistance from State Library will make its preliminary recommendations available for public comment between August 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - (4) NAC will revisit its preliminary recommendations with consideration of the public comments received by November 1, 2009, and present its final recommendations to the State Library Commission for action at the December 2, 2009 Commission meeting.
  - (5) Notification to members of the Montana library community will be sent out no later than December 11, 2009 regarding the Commission action taken.
  - (6) If the State Library Commission's action in December is to accept the NAC recommendations and proceed with an Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) process, that process will be initiated by State Library staff so that we

meet a filing date of December 24, 2009 or the first available date in 2010 which we assume will be around January 7, 2010.

(7) Formal ARM process will be followed, including at least one public hearing.

(8) Goal would be to complete the ARM process at or soon after the April 2010 Commission meeting.

(9) If ARM process is successful, new or revised programs to receive the repurposed monies will be contacted and appropriate contracts will be developed and administrated.

- **Library Courier/Delivery service pilot project funding** – As noted above this project is still funded in the final budget proposal but it is funded at \$80,000 per year rather than the original \$200,000 per year. Staff is currently working on revised drafts of the project to make the necessary adjustments to match the reduced funding. The Network Advisory Council will further revise the pilot project draft plan at their summer meeting.
- **HB265 status** – This Montana Association for the Blind legislation supporting the Radio Reading Services and Newline services which benefit MSL Talking Book Library patrons failed to pass out of the House Human Services Committee as a result of a tied vote. Representative Teresa Henry did take the funding request from this bill and added it as an amendment to HB 645 (the stimulus bill). We were unaware that she planned to do this so it came as a surprise. As this language made it through out the rest of the legislative processes for HB645, we have as noted above received the funding for these newspaper services for the Talking Book Library patrons.
- **Stimulus package(s):** Please know that MSL has made several attempts to keep libraries' and library users' needs on the list(s) of stimulus fundable projects. We submitted brief statements regarding shovel ready library construction projects, as well as requests for consideration of stimulus monies to be directed to libraries to develop, enhance or improve their broadband connectivity in order to support the increased use of the public access computers in libraries across Montana. We believe a possible partnership exists between job services across Montana and their local libraries to help provide training and resources for job awareness, job interviews, applications, career changes, practice testing for licensing and certification, etc. We also asked for consideration of our one time only request to digitize Montana's state publications. This information was submitted to American Library Association legislative folks working with congressional leadership in Washington, D.C. as well as to the Governor's office here in Montana.

Although as a state agency, the State Library was unable to represent libraries at the public hearing on the stimulus package, Nanette Gilbertson, the Montana Library Association's lobbyist did represent libraries at the hearing and requested

that the hearing panel consider funding projects that would help libraries provide enhanced services to those dealing with the economic downswing. She also mentioned the same items as above.

We urge local libraries to visit immediately with their local city and county officials regarding stimulus monies coming into local government and how libraries can help spend those monies in appropriate, necessary, and positive ways that will greatly benefit the local community.

### **Montana Shared Catalog (MSC):**

- MSC 2009 New Library Applications: Application deadline was Feb 18. Received applications from: Ashland Public School, Bridger Public Library, Glasgow City-County Library, Joliet Public Library, Lincoln County High School (Eureka), Manhattan Community Library, Parmly Billings Library, Red Lodge Public Library, and Stone Child College Library. Screening has taken place, all applications were approved for funding if available. The Network Advisory Council (NAC) recommended the Commission fund all nine projects. At its April 25, 2009 meeting the Commission approved all nine projects for LSTA seed money funding.
- MSC super support person Jemma Hazen and baby are doing great. Jemma is teleworking from home until the end of May.
- New (2008) Libraries Status: Billings Catholic Schools, Philipsburg Public Library, Power School and West Yellowstone School are busy retrospective cataloging. Power School may be ready to go live in late April.
- The Symphony 3.2.1 upgrade was completed on January 19th.
- Dillon Public Library went live in MSC 4-Rivers partners group on February 4<sup>th</sup> and is experiencing an enthusiastic response from patrons.
- MSC Spring Membership Meeting will be held in Bozeman on May 7-8, 2009. Preliminary information and lodging details are available at: [http://msl.mt.gov/For\\_Librarians/Montana\\_Shared\\_Catalog/Meetings/default.asp](http://msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/Montana_Shared_Catalog/Meetings/default.asp)

## **Montana Library Certification Program (for librarians, trustees, other interested persons, not libraries) Update:**

The Montana Library Certification Program will be updated during 2009. MSL staff and an 11-member Focus Group of volunteer librarians and trustees are working together this year on the update and will make recommendations to the MSL Commission. The Commission will be asked to make a final decision on the recommendations with the intent that the updated program will be launched in January 2010.

To facilitate the collection of input on these update recommendations, all Montana librarians and board members will have an opportunity to respond to an online survey. Please visit the following url for more information and to complete the survey:

[http://www.msl.mt.gov/For\\_Librarians/Training/certification/default.asp](http://www.msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/Training/certification/default.asp)

Your ideas and suggestions are important to MSL and the Focus Group.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FOCUS GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ♦ Three certification tracks will be available in the updated Montana Library Certification Program:
  1. Library Administrator Track (required for all public library directors): Initial certificate = 60 Continuing Education (CE) credits earned in a 3-year period  
Renewal certificate = 45 CE credits earned in a 3-year period
  2. Library Staff Track: Initial certificate = 60 CE credits earned in a 3-year period. Renewal certificate = 45 CE credits earned in a 3-year period. Library directors will be asked to assist staff with selecting and tracking CE activities and will verify completion of requirements for staff applying for certification.
  3. Library Trustee Track: This program is under development. The initial recommendation is for a minimum of 15 CE credits earned in a 3-year period.
- ♦ There will no longer be different certification levels based on education and experience, but participants in the certification program may be awarded one or more specializations by accumulating extra credits in a particular CE category.
- ♦ All public library directors, no matter what size of library served or level of education, will be required to participate in CE activities and earn certification. A change in the current Public Library Standards will be needed to make this official; MSL will propose the necessary adjustments at the appropriate time.
- ♦ Recognition for those who achieve certification will be expanded to include notification to library management, library boards, city and county officials, and the local community. Boards and directors will be encouraged to consider granting staff time and financial assistance to participate in CE activities and to offer incentives for staff who earn certification.

## Statewide Projects update:

- **MSL "Ready 2 Read" Early Literacy Campaign** will launched in April 2009. The goal of this statewide effort is to promote the value of early literacy. It is part of the "What's Your Story?" campaign targeting parents and caregivers of children from birth to age five. The marketing materials will ultimately include an extensive Web site for the public (<http://ready2readmontana.org/R2R-flash-main.html>), posters, and a Web site for librarians. The public Web site was designed by Joanna Yardley, a renowned children's illustrator. She has designed a series of animated Montana animals, including the buffalo, the heron, the elk, and the grizzly, and has also designed the site to have a real Montana look and feel, (but for kids). The Web site is broken down by age group and focuses information for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and parents. For each of the children's ages, there is information on how to share a book with your kid, what kids at that age like, songs and fingerplays, best books for kids, and activities to promote early literacy (plus a lot more). For parents, there is information on dialogic reading, brain development, and more. The posters feature children of different ages reading with their parents. The librarian Web site will feature a librarian toolkit that has everything from handouts to provide to parents at books and babies storyhours to lyrics to songs and actions to fingerplays you can use for those early literacy storyhours. All of that will soon be available on the State Library's What's Your Story Web site. There will be a huge library promotional effort, including partnering with organizations and agencies to help distribute our materials throughout Montana to people who might not visit libraries. Some of these outreach efforts will include WIC offices, county health departments, pediatricians, and more. In the next several months, our intent is to produce a wide range of materials for distribution to parents of young children emphasizing the value of early literacy and how to share books with their kids to promote early literacy skills.
- **MontanaLibrary2Go:** <http://www.montanalibrary2go.org>  
Phases One, Two, Three and Four have gone live with this statewide downloadable E-content project through OverDrive. There are currently 33 libraries in the project. These libraries joined in Phase Four:

Bozeman Public Library  
Bitterroot Public Library  
Fallon County Library  
Bicentennial Library of Colstrip  
Branches of Roosevelt County added (Poplar, Culbertson, Froid)

The Bozeman Public Library has joined the statewide Selection Team, which manages collection development through OverDrive's Content Reserve module, a

listserv and virtual meetings. Monthly content selection is done on a rotating basis by these libraries:

Missoula Public Library  
Flathead County Library  
Parmly Billings Library  
Lewis and Clark Library  
Great Falls Public Library  
Bozeman Public Library

The current collection size is about 2000 titles, with additional titles added at least monthly.

The MSL Commission approved LSTA funding of \$19,500 toward this project in FY2010. OverDrive's annual hosting fee and new library participation fees for up to 10 new libraries will be covered by this funding.

- **HeritageQuest Online:**

The current subscription for HeritageQuest runs through September 30, 2009. The renewal price will increase by 5%. The MSL Commission approved LSTA funding of \$15,000 to cover part of the total amount for renewal, which will be \$32,025. Public libraries will again need to cover the rest (\$17,025) under the local formula created for this subscription.

- **Montana Memory Project:**

A statewide Digital Summit will be held on May 21, followed by a Preservation (Long Term Access) Planning Meeting on May 22, at the Montana State Library. The first day will focus on current digital projects around the state, plans for future projects, challenges and standards. The second day will be dedicated to investigating three options for a statewide "long term access" tool to recommend to the Network Advisory Council. Please contact Sarah McHugh ([samchugh@mt.gov](mailto:samchugh@mt.gov)) at MSL if you are interested in attending either of these events.

- **WorldCat Local/WorldCat Navigator Pilot:**

The MSL Commission approved \$26,258 for a proposed pilot to test these OCLC products among a small group of Montana libraries. WorldCat Navigator combines Interlibrary Loan and circulation to create a more seamless connection between statewide resource sharing and the local ILS. WorldCat Local provides the patron with an "integrated discovery" experience on the front end. Patrons are able to move



through levels of search results, going from global to regional to statewide to local, to placing a hold, renewing an item, seeing an item's availability, accessing subscription databases, or viewing a digital object, all through an "Integrated Discovery System" approach. Centralized authentication and local system interoperability are a part of the architecture. Please contact Sarah McHugh if you are interested in this pilot.

- **Fall Workshop:**

Mark your calendars! The location and date for this year's MSL Fall Workshop has been set: Great Falls Holiday Inn, September 11 & 12. As always, there will be a full slate of continuing education sessions covering a variety of library-related topics and a great opportunity to network with colleagues from all types of libraries statewide.

### **MSL Begins Hosting of Homepages for Interested Montana Public Libraries:**

If yours is a public library without a Web presence featuring your own home page, or you are finding it too difficult to maintain your current home page, MSL may be able to help. We have designed a local library home page template to be hosted on our servers featuring some standard links to services like AskMontana and MyMontanaLibrary as well as customizable links to your newsletter, catalog, announcements, etc. To make changes to your MSL-provided local library homepage, you simply enter the desired change in some specially-provided text boxes available through the edit mode of the online Montana Library Directory and those changes are (magically) reflected to all viewing your homepage. (Note: MSL is not able to host your current Web pages not created through our template design.) To view the first working prototype of this template go to: <http://valierpubliclibrary.org/>. For more information, or to set-up a home page for your library using our template, contact Tom Marino, MSL Web System Manager ([tmarino@mt.gov](mailto:tmarino@mt.gov)).